‘I was once hitting Michael for doing something. Paul stood by shouting at Mike, “Tell him you didn’t do it and he’ll stop.” Mike admitted he had done it, whatever it was. But Paul was always able to get out of most things.’ – Jim McCartney 1968

Paul was swinging his brother around by his ankles and Mike met concrete full in the face, splintering his teeth. Paul apologised royally in case Mike told their dad, and Mike showed the requisite faithfulness by keeping his mouth shut. – Mark Lewhison 2013

Dad gave us the hiding of our lives. We went to bed crying and lay with our heads on the pillows sobbing bitterly. I was prepared to regard the hiding as just punishment. [For falling in a pit and nearly drowning] But not Paul. He dried his eyes and began to think out ways of getting revenge on Dad. – Mike McCartney 1965

“If I ever got bashed for being bad, I used to go into their bedroom when they were out and rip the lace curtains at the bottom, just a little bit, then I'd think, that's got them.” – Paul McCartney 1968

“[Dad would] shout 'Quiet!' for the football results each Saturday afternoon and woe betide if you moved an inch” – Mike McCartney, 1982

“One day, George got caned. For just sort of messing around and talking in class. And he went home and he was sitting at dinner. And his dad noticed this wheel here and he said ‘what was that?’ he said, ‘oh I got caned today’ and his dad got annoyed. So the next day at school the teacher that caned George got called out. ‘Mr. Harrison to see you.’ ‘Are you the teacher that caned my son?’ ‘Well yes I am.’ And he laid him out. George's dad laid him out. He was the hero of the entire school forever. To this very day.” Paul McCartney, 1984

“Mike McCartney was once knocked unconscious by a master; when he told his dad [...] Jim merely said, "Don't be silly son, the masters are always right," and went back to his crossword. – Mark Lewhison 2013

But I used to tell my dad, "I got caned, dad." "Well, you probably did something wrong.” – Paul McCartney 1984

You know, nobody likes to have their wrist slapped, you know when you get exam results and you haven’t done as well as you thought you had. – Paul McCartney, 1989

The words they used in their end-of-term reports: ‘If he would only buckle down...' and you'd go, 'No! No! Get out of my life! I hate you. You should say I'm great. I've got to take this home, you know.’ – Paul McCartney 1997

“The thing is he did used to kind of...hit me occasionally. You know that was what they did in those days, but you know I was...you know it’s not all great.” – Paul McCartney 2001

“And I was always saying, "Face up to your dad, tell him to fuck off. He can't hit you. You can kill him. He's an old man." I used to say, "Don't take that shit off him.” – John Lennon 1971

“I don’t think most children think of their parents as fellow human beings until they're 16, or older. Then they realise their parents are just people like them and not some sort of great big giants to be feared.” Paul McCartney, 1967

“I’ll tell you what comes to mind, just the memory of one moment when I was about...I don’t know, 16, 17 or something. And he came in with the usual stuff and he sort of just slapped me, and he said [angry wordless yelling]. We’re having an argument and he slapped me. So I just stood there, and it was like an amazing moment in my life. I said, ‘Go ahead, do it again.’ And it was like...and he just went [wooshing sound]. He never did it again.” – Paul McCartney 2001

“So I’m just trying to give the point of view of the people that, you know, don’t really want to be spanked anymore, thank you, daddy! Just sort of tell us why you don’t want us to do it. Explain it clearly, and maybe we won’t do it. But if you keep spanking us, we’re gonna be naughty.” – Paul McCartney 1967